

REVIEW
on the PhD thesis of Li Shanyin
entitled
"Professional training of Masters in music therapy at universities of the USA"
submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the specialty
011 Educational, pedagogical sciences
written by Khrystyna Martsikhiv,
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1. Research topicality and its connection with the relevant plans of the fields of science

The 21st century is characterized not only by significant achievements in the development of science but also by growing problems related to public health, both mental and physical. This situation prompts the development and implementation of new methods of treatment and rehabilitation that can be effective for different segments of the population. Music therapy is one of these methods, which involves the use of musical interventions for therapeutic purposes. The application of music helps patients improve their emotional state, enhance social adaptation, and support cognitive and physical functions. Music therapy includes various techniques such as musical improvisations, listening to music, songwriting, song analysis, singing, and movement to music.

Along with other areas of pedagogical science, the history of pedagogy in Ukraine has continued to develop. Despite a number of issues, including the use of outdated methodological approaches, the history of pedagogy is confidently seeking new research fields and problem-based thematic horizons, gradually modernizing its methodological arsenal and meeting the needs of pedagogical science and the practice of educational activity. Therefore, Li Shanyin's thesis is relevant and appropriate.

The topic of Li Shanyin's research work corresponds to the to the topic of scientific work Theoretical and Methodological Foundations of the Personal and Professional Development of a Modern Specialist in the Conditions of Integration into the International Educational Space carried out at the Department of Pedagogics and Innovative Education at Lviv Polytechnic National University (number of state registration 0121U113179).

The topic of this thesis was approved (Minutes N 3/22 dated 24.10.2022) and specified (Minutes № 8/24 dated 25.03.2024) at the meetings of the Academic Council of the Institute of Jurisprudence, Psychology and Innovative Education of Lviv Polytechnic National University.

2. The most significant scientific results presented in the thesis

Based on the analysis of the research source base, the thesis provides an analysis and substantiation of the theoretical and methodological foundations of professional training for music therapy specialists. The author examines the content of professional training for master's degree students in music therapy through the prism of the requirements of American society. An important aspect of the work is the research conducted by the author on the characteristics of organizational forms and teaching methods, as well as the study of the specifics of the practical component of professional training for master's students in music therapy. By comparing the experiences of two

countries, the author identifies and justifies the directions for introducing constructive ideas of the American experience into the higher education system of Ukraine.

3. The scientific novelty of the results obtained

The scientific novelty of the obtained results lies in the fact that *for the first time the comprehensive analysis of the professional training of masters in Music Therapy at US universities has been performed; the theoretical and methodological foundations of the professional training of music therapy specialists have been analyzed and substantiated* (behaviorism, cognitive constructivism, social constructivism, connectivism; methodological approaches: competency-based, activity-based, personality-oriented, cultural, interdisciplinary, integrative); the content of professional training of masters in Music Therapy, which is practically oriented and aimed at the development of the ability to: carry out client diagnostics; integrate knowledge about the cultural diversity of clients; jointly develop an effective and clear support plan through diagnosis of customer needs, selection of measures; use knowledge and resources to organize therapeutic care; communicate; maintain clinical documentation, etc. *has been analyzed; the organizational forms* (interactive lectures, seminars, educational conferences, research training, trainings, etc.) and teaching methods (reverse brainstorming, concept mapping, collaborative learning, service-learning, problem-based learning, distributed learning, project-based learning, etc.) *have been characterized; the specifics of the practical component of the professional training of masters in Music Therapy has been studied; on the basis of a comparison of the experience of two countries, directions for the implementation of constructive ideas of the American experience into the system of higher education of Ukraine at the strategic, organizational, methodical, research levels have been defined and justified.*

The content of concepts "music therapy", "music therapist", "music therapy curriculum" *have been clarified.*

The comprehension of the concepts in the field of higher Music Therapy education, master's training as well as features of masters in Music Therapy theoretical and practical training organization *have been improved and expanded.*

The thesis on the organization of master's training in Music Therapy in accordance with modern theories and substantiated methodological approaches *have been further developed.*

4. The degree of validity of the scientific statements, conclusions, and recommendations formulated in the thesis

An analysis of the content of the thesis and the publications of Li Shanyin provides grounds for concluding that the results presented by the author are scientifically validate and reliable. Considering the topicality and demand of music therapy and specialists in this specialty, based on a comprehensive analysis of scientific literature, we identified contradictions that need to be resolved: between society's need for music therapy specialists who are ready to provide highly qualified services to various segments of the population, and the lack of music therapists' training practice in many countries, including Ukraine; between the current trends in the development of higher music therapy education and the needs for the development of appropriate legislative, substantive, methodological and methodical support for the professional training of future music therapists; the need for a comprehensive analysis of the constructive ideas of the American experience and the insufficient level of its analysis and generalization in pedagogical comparative studies.

The scientific apparatus presented in the introduction makes it possible to comprehensively present the author's vision of solving the problem under study, which led to the use of theoretical and practical methods of scientific research.

The novelty and reliability of the general conclusions of the thesis are ensured by a comprehensive analysis of a significant number of sources; the use of appropriate methodological approaches to research and a set of interrelated methods in order to solve specific tasks and achieve the goal of the research; effective implementation of materials and research results in the work of institutions of the higher education system in Ukraine.

The thesis is prepared at the appropriate scientific level. The author demonstrates the theory of the problem and methods of its research. The structure of the work, the tables, figures and appendices placed in it make a positive impression.

The content of the submitted abstract reflects the content of the thesis and highlights its essential aspects and main provisions.

The level of approval of the research results is sufficient and is confirmed by the author's participation in scientific and practical conferences at various levels.

5. The significance of the results obtained by the author for science and practice

The practical significance of the research lies in the fact that materials highlighted on the pages of the thesis, scientific statements and conclusions are used by institutions of higher education, in particular, while teaching of the following courses: "Comparative pedagogy", "Actual problems of the theory and history of pedagogy", "The theoretical and conceptual foundations of professional of education", "Special seminar: Actual problems of modern pedagogical education", "Psychology", "Psychological counselling with the basics of psychotherapy". The outlined directions of using constructive ideas of the American experience in training masters in Music Therapy can be used for further scientific research, during the development of educational programs, the state standard of higher education, etc.

6. Recommendations for the use of the results and conclusions of the thesis

The results of the study can be useful for the development or adaptation of professional training programs for masters in therapy in other countries. For example, based on the analysis of the American training model, it is possible to assess the possibilities of its adaptation to the national characteristics of the health care system and educational standards. This is especially true for the integration of practical and clinical components of training. Based on the results of the study, professional training standards, methodological manuals and recommendations for teachers and clinical mentors can be developed. This will help to increase the effectiveness of training and ensure a higher level of student preparation for professional activity.

The thesis can serve as the basis for further research into the effectiveness of training programs, their impact on the career development of graduates, as well as on the quality of medical care they provide. This will allow creating a system of continuous monitoring and assessment of the quality of education in this area.

7. Evaluation of the content of the thesis and its completion

The degree of validity of the scientific statements, conclusions, recommendations formulated in the thesis is largely ensured by the logical structure of the work. The thesis consists of a list of symbols, an introduction, three chapters, conclusions to the chapters, general conclusions, a list of sources used and appendices. The logic and sequence of the text presentation of the work corresponds to the solution of the research tasks to achieve its goal. The logical structure of the work is provided by conclusions and generalizations, as well as tables, figures and appendices.

In Chapter 1 "Theoretical and methodological fundamentals of music therapists' professional training" the professional training of music therapists is described and analyzed as the subject of scientific and pedagogical research. This chapter presents the theoretical fundamentals and methodological approaches to professional training of masters in Music Therapy.

In Chapter 2 "The organization of professional training of masters in Music Therapy in US universities" the peculiarities of professional activity and professional requirements for music therapists in American society are described and analyzed. This chapter presents the individual educational trajectory of the master of Music Therapy. The content of music therapists' training at the master's level, as well as the forms and methods of training music therapists in the American experience are analyzed. The features of music therapists' practical training are characterized.

Chapter 3 "The possibilities of using the constructive ideas of the American experience of training masters in Music Therapy in Ukrainian educational practice" explains the state of training masters in Music Therapy in higher education institutions of Ukraine. The comparative analysis of certain aspects of the professional training of masters in Music Therapy in Ukraine and the USA is carried out. The possibilities of using the constructive ideas of the American experience in the educational practice of Ukraine are substantiated.

The linguistic and stylistic structure of this thesis takes into account the peculiarities of the scientific style of writing.

8. Discussion points, recommendations and comments on the content of the thesis

Overall, while positively assessing the scientific and practical significance of the obtained results, it is necessary to express certain suggestions and comments:

1. In our opinion, the first chapter should explore the essence of concepts such as "therapeutic process," "music therapy intervention," "melotherapy," etc.
2. Highlighting the social and economic issues that directly affect the training of master's students in therapy is an important aspect. Comments should be made regarding issues such as the shortage of qualified personnel, changes in healthcare policy, the accessibility of education for various social groups, and the challenges of funding university programs.
3. The thesis should include a more detailed analysis of the recent reforms and trends in the system of preparing master's students in therapy at universities in the USA, particularly how these changes are reflected at the level of curricula and professional standards. Attention should be paid to how recent changes in healthcare policy and the development of medical technologies affect curricula and student preparation.
4. The thesis is largely based on theoretical material; however, the use of specific empirical data, such as student surveys or interviews with faculty and practitioners, could significantly strengthen the argumentation and make the conclusions more substantiated.
5. The preparation of master's students in therapy in the USA is actively adapting to new technologies and methods. Given the rapid development of medical technologies, it would be worthwhile to investigate in more detail the technologies (e.g., telemedicine, simulations, virtual learning platforms) used in the training of future master's students in therapy, and how this may improve the quality of education and clinical training.

- The thesis should provide a deeper analysis of how the education system prepares specialists for the real challenges of the profession. This may include studying the success of graduates, their level of preparation for practical work, their ability to adapt to changes in medical practice, and the impact of education on their professional career and development.

9. The completeness of results covered in publications.

The materials of the thesis are covered in 8 publications of the author: 4 articles in journals included into the list of specialized scientific publications of Ukraine, 4 works which certify the approbation of thesis' materials on the conferences.

10. Conclusion

Thus, the reviewed dissertation by Li Shanyin entitled: "Professional Training of master's in Music Therapy at Universities of the USA" is an independent, completed study that presents scientific novelty and holds theoretical and practical significance for educational science and practice.

We affirm that the thesis deserves a positive assessment and meets the requirements of the Order On Approval of Requirements for Thesis Formatting (as amended) No. 40 of January 12, 2017 by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, and the Procedure for Awarding the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Cancellation of the Decision of a One-time Specialised Academic Council of a Higher Education Institution or Research Institution to Award the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 44 of 12 January 2022).

The author, Li Shanyin, deserves to be awarded the to be awarded the scientific degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the specialty 011 Educational, pedagogical sciences, field of knowledge 01 Education, Pedagogy.

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